

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of October 31, 2005, 2005, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because (a) the proper units for surface area are not stated in line 7 of the abstract and (b) the mole ratio given in line 5 of the abstract should state "lithium hydroxide" instead of "lithium silicate."

The abstract has been amended to recite "lithium hydroxide" as suggested by the Examiner. However, it is not understood why the surface area units are not considered to be proper. Line 7 states "mg/m²", which is the same unit used in the specification at page 3, line 8. This unit is milligrams per square meter; that is, there are from 10 milligrams to 800 milligrams of Si on each square meter of the surface treated steel sheet.

Art Rejections

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,169,916 (Tsutsui et al.).

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the coating solution consisting of from 5 to 600 g/L of a water soluble or water dispersible lithium silicate having a molar ratio of silicic acid or silicate:lithium hydroxide within a range of from 20:1 to 1:1.

Tsutsui et al. use as a coating a solution an aqueous solution of:

- (a) a water-soluble or water-dispersible lithium silicate at a concentration of 2 to 250 g/L;
- (b) at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible saturated or unsaturated fatty acid compound, higher alcohol wax, polyethylene type resin, or silicone type resin at a concentration of 1 to 250 g/L; and
- (c) at least one water-soluble phosphate or phosphoric acid at a concentration of 1 to 100 g/L.

That is, the coating solution of Tsutsui et al. contains not only a lithium silicate but also a saturated or unsaturated fatty acid compounds and a phosphate or phosphoric acid. The coating solution of the present invention excludes anything in the coating solution but a lithium silicate having a molar ratio of silicic acid or silicate: lithium hydroxide within a range of from 20:1 to 1:1.

Because the coating solution of the present invention is different from that of Tsutsui et al., it is respectfully submitted that a bearing seal prepared from the surface treated steel sheet according to [amended] claim 1 would not be inherent from the Tsutsui et al. disclosure.

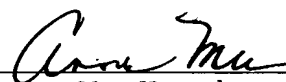
Appln. No. 10/509,358
Amd. dated January 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 31, 2005

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted
that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and
favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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